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IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) An electric motor-operated vehicle comprised of a frame, a wheel journaled by said frame, an electric motor carried by said frame and having an output shaft, and a transmission for selectively driving said wheel from said electric motor output shaft or permitting said wheel to free wheel relative to said output shaft, said transmission comprising a planetary gear mechanism, said planetary gear mechanism having a sun gear element, at least one planetary gear element meshing with said sun gear element, a ring gear element meshing with said planetary gear element and a carrier plate element supporting planetary gear element for rotation, said output shaft driving being in continuous driving relationship with one of said planetary gear mechanism elements, another of said planetary gear mechanism elements being in continuous driving relation with said wheel and a coupling element for selectively retaining said ring gear element against rotation or permitting rotation thereof for selectively driving said wheel from said output shaft of said motor at a specified speed reduction ratio or permitting freewheeling of said wheel relative to said output shaft.

2. (Previously Amended) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 5, wherein the wheel is driven by a transmission output shaft connected to the carrier plate element coaxially with the axis of said plate element, a wheel gear fixed to an inside cylindrical surface of said wheel driven by an output gear formed on the transmission output shaft, the motor output shaft and the transmission output shaft are disposed coaxially.

3. (Previously Amended) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 1, wherein there are a pair of wheels each driven by a respective electric motor and planetary gear mechanism mounted on each of said wheels, an operation mechanism mounted on the vehicle frame, and a transmitting system for transmitting the action of the operation mechanism simultaneously to both coupling elements of said planetary gear mechanisms.

4. (Previously Added) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the output shaft drives the sun gear element.

5. (Previously Amended) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the carrier plate element is in driving relation with the wheel.

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6. (Previously Canceled)

7. (Previously Added) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 3, wherein each wheel is journaled on a stationary part of the vehicle in which the respective ring gear is also journaled, each of said ring gears having at least one locking detent opening juxtaposed to said vehicle stationary part forming a part of the coupling element of the respective wheel, each of said coupling elements further including a respective locking pin reciprocally supported in said vehicle stationary part and adapted to engage said locking detent opening of the associated wheel for restraining said ring gear from rotation for effecting a driving relation between the respective electric motor output shaft and wheel, said locking pins being actuated by a common operator.

8. (Previously Added) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 7, wherein the common operator actuates the locking pins through a respective one of a pair of wire transmitters

9. (Previously Added) An electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the wheel is journaled on a stationary part of the vehicle in which the ring gear is also journaled, said ring gear having at least one locking detent opening juxtaposed to said vehicle stationary part forming a part of said coupling element, said coupling element further including a locking pin reciprocally supported in said vehicle stationary part and adapted to engage said locking detent opening for restraining said ring gear from rotation for effecting a driving relation between the electric motor output shaft and said wheel.
